

## **MINUTES**

### **FLORIDA KEYS COUNCIL FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**THURSDAY, March 25, 2010**

**PRESENT:** Stan Darczuk, Cindy McKnight, Neil McMichael, Gay Hall, Marlene Steckley

**GUESTS:** Mike Nalepa, Bob Stone, Belinda Brown, Anna Haskins

The Meeting of the Disability Council was called to order by the Chair, Stan Darczuk.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA**

It was determined that a quorum was present.

Minutes of the previous minutes and today's agenda were approved.

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:**

Stan started the meeting by asking each person present to introduce themselves and give a brief overview of what they do and what brought them to our meeting. Stan discussed the direction of the Council. Given the structure and meeting schedule he discussed ways in which to best utilize our time and energy to accomplish our goals. He suggested that each of us consider this between now and our next meeting.

Anna Haskins, Monroe County Special Needs Coordinator, introduced herself and gave a brief overview of the Special Needs Registry. Stan talked about how her role and the function of the Council are intertwined and exchange of information and ideas between both is exactly the type of involvement beneficial to the citizens of Monroe County. Anna was also in attendance to learn the ropes to fill in for Marlene if and when necessary.

Stan also discussed advocacy issues and how he feels we as a Council must interact with other offices in the County such as non-profits and the work they do for the disabled. This is the type of interaction for advocacy and education that is beneficial for all.

### **REPORT OF TREASURER:**

The current balance of Council's account is \$5,740.48. There are no expenditures to date. The Council has previously voted to provide \$2000.00 from our funds to the Monroe County Library system. To date these funds have not been transferred. Marlene continues to try to implement the transfer.

## **REPORT OF LIASON:**

Marlene reported that Social Services has expended their first allocation from the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) Grant. Social Services offices continue to take applications. Additional funding under this grant will be available in July. Social Services staff continues to gear up for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). WAP is a Department of Energy program aimed at reducing energy consumption thus reducing power bills in the home of low-income households.

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AWARDS:**

Bill Gordon is coordinating the previously approved awards for Admiral Handicap Scuba Adventures and Dr. Brenda Pierce, Center for Independent Living.

A motion was made and passed to present an award to Michael Nealey for his work in assisting people with disabilities enjoy all types of water sports.

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADA UPGRADES IN MONROE COUNTY:**

**Bob Stone, Monroe County Public Works**, has assigned a Public Works employee to oversee proper installation of the ramp at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Street church polling location for the next election.

**Mike Nalepa, Monroe County Project Management**, discussed the County's Transition Plan. The preliminary report is due in late April or early May from Bender and Associates. The plan covers the physical changes or updates that are necessary to meet ADA standards. Mike believes it will be a 5-year program to complete. A lot of the work can be completed by Public Works staff. What cannot be done by staff will have to be contracted out after engineering studies are completed. Mike anticipates 30 to 60 days to review of the plan. It will then be sent back to Bender and Associates for any changes. Once Project Management approves the plan it will go before the BOCC for final approval. He anticipates a 6-month total time frame for final acceptance by the BOCC.

Beach access is included in the Transition Plan. Public Works is currently working on safer access to Higgs Beach.

During discussion between Mike and Council members it was noted that a large percentage of adaptations for people with disabilities are also enjoyed by people without disabilities. An example is the ramp for a wheelchair is also beneficial to the mother pushing a baby carriage.

**Belinda Brown, Supervisor of Elections:** No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Neil McMichael, Director of Monroe Association of Remarkable Citizens (M.A.R.C.), introduced himself. Neil has been appointed to the Council by Commissioner Heather Carruthers. He also announced a future meeting he would like to schedule reference environmental modifications for people with disabilities.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2010, 10:00 a.m. at the State Building, Government Center, Marathon..

Meeting adjourned.